File 1
00:00
(This is September—)

25th.

(—25th, 2006, and I'm interviewing Pat—if you will pronounce your last name?)

Jauréguiberry. It's supposed to be Jarigaberry, but anyway. Or Jeregeberi. Either one.

(Here in his home in Las Vegas, New Mexico. We will just get started, Pat. We're gonna start with your educational background.)

[chuckles]

If you could tell me a little bit about that.)

[laughs] I've learned a few things. Oh, educational. Let's see. I graduated from St. Michael's High School in Santa Fe in '66. That was 19, not 18. Let's see. I went to UNM for a couple of years, the University of New Mexico. I didn't finish my degree there. I was thinkin' of becomin' an architect, uh-huh. But that didn't work out. And then—let's see. I've also taken courses here at New Mexico Highlands University, a lot of science courses and some graduate wildlife courses and stuff. And then I've gotten some credit from New Mexico State University for some workshops and stuff that I took, riparian workshops and stuff. But that's about it, I guess, on education.

01:32
(If you originally thought that you were gonna get into architecture, how'd you get into wildlife?)

I didn't have a job. [laughs]

([chuckles])

I was raised in Encino, New Mexico. My folks are buried there. I had done all kinds of things. I had lived in Dallas for three years or somethin' like that, doin' surveying and odds and ends. And then I came back and I got a job at the University of New Mexico, as a matter of fact, that's where I was workin'. I had been there about three years, and one day we all got laid off, our department just got dissolved, so, pshht, we were out of a job.

(What were you doing there?)

I was with food services. I was drivin' a truck doin' delivery stuff to the cafeterias at the University. We had some butchers there, we had three butchers. It was an interesting little place. We used to make our own *chicharrones* and all that stuff. It was really neat. They were all Spanish guys, and I speak Spanish, so that really helped. And then—anyway, I ran out of jobs, so I worked on my own there, drawin' unemployment. I was pullin' trees out for people, tree

stumps for people and stuff. I had an old Willys Jeep, a 1950, with a winch on the front with a PTO on it. I ran out of unemployment benefits. [laughs]

02:51
There was a trapper named Jerome Morris that was a trapper in Encino. I knew old Jerome, he used to wear pecheras, which are bib overalls. He used to wear those all the time, and he got to where he had one crutch he started usin'. But anyway, he had retired, and about three months went by, and back then we were with Fish and Wildlife. I went downtown to the federal building and told 'em I was lookin' for a job, and they said, no, they didn't have no jobs. I didn't know the office was on Candelaria, was where the state office was. I went over there, and there was a man named Bill Spalsbury.

(I've heard his name.)

Wonderful guy. He died in a plane crash there in Colorado, in Denver, at Stapleton, I think. The plane turned over or something when they were takin' off one night. Anyway, they have an award for him now, the Spalsbury Award.

(That's how I've heard of him.)

He was a real nice guy, old Bill. But anyway, I interviewed and whatnot, and he hired me. The first thing he told me, he told me, he said, "Well, you got the job, but you'll have to get a haircut and a shave." 'Cause I had long hair at the time [pause] kind of like I have now. But anyway, so I did. [laughs]

([laughs] What year was that?)

That was in '73. 19. I've got to put that in there now 'cause we've crossed the millennium.

([chuckles])

Anyway, 1973.

04:14
So they told me to stop up at the office, so I showed up, and I had a bedroll, not a sleeping bag, I had a bedroll. I had my blankets with the canvas tarp, had a bedroll. They sent me with Earl Jones. We went to San Mateo, over there by Grants, over there by Ambrosia Lake. He had a camp there. It was in November, the 8th of November, I think, was when I started. Colder than hell. Spent a week up there with Earl runnin' around all over that country, on Floyd Lee ranch and all that, trappin' with him, runnin' his trap line, and just spent the week with him camped over there. I got laryngitis because he had a gas stove, a gas heater in there. We had running water: we had to run out and get it. Cold. Everything was freezin'.

We ended up one day stopped for lunch on a dike over an arroyo, and [chuckles] we were listenin' to this Paul Harvey or somebody for lunch. We had the truck off. The starter had gone out on us. So we had these handyman jack and trap stakes and stuff, and we jacked ourself with the handyman, pullin' the truck up the dike and finally got a rollin' start, pshht! and got the thing started. Kept on goin'.

05:35
Spent the rest of the day just stoppin' on hills if we had to stop and turn the motor off. Anyway, came back down, and over at Floyd Lee's was another trapper there named Herschel Henson, and I think Herschel's still alive. He lives in Albuquerque over by Five Points, over by Atrisco somewhere. And then we asked him to give us a push in the morning and he said OK. Well, the next morning he never showed up. So we managed to stop one of the Indians that were working at the mine to come over there, and he pushed us and we got started and we headed back to Grants, and on the way, by Milan, we had a wheel bearing got out. [laughs] So we kind of hobbled in to Grants.

Anyway, Earl was quite a guy. He had a big old block of Velveeta cheese that he carried with him, and onions, [chuckles] and a loaf of bread. And that's what we'd eat for lunch. So that's where I first got started. [laughs]

(That was your training week? [chuckles])

06:26
[chuckles] That was my training week. Earl was a great guy. He had two sons and a daughter. Both his sons have passed away. One died at home one day, I don't know what happened to him, and the other one worked for us and committed suicide (inaudible word).

[phone rings]

06:41 End file 1

File 2
00:00
(We'll pick up where we left off. You said you grew up in Encino?)

In Encino, New Mexico, yeah. We came to this country in 1950, March of 1950, on the *Queen Mary*.

(Your parents did?)

We did.

(Oh, you did, too?)

We did. Yeah. I was about three years old at the time. I emigrated. I'm an immigrant. We went to Lovington, New Mexico, and then we messed around. Anyway, we ended up by Encino at Cline's Corners. Both my folks were—they died when I was young. My mom, she was, like, 34 years old. We were in the pickup one day and she went off the road, hydroplaned after a little rain and she got killed. It was me and my brother and her. And then about two and a half years later my dad died out on a coyote drive. They had been chasing coyotes and they came in for lunch and he had a heart attack. He was 42.

(Very young.)

Yeah.

(Where did you immigrate from?)

We're Basques. We came from the Basque country.

(In Spain?)

On the French side.

(Ok.)

There's the Spanish side and the French side. We used to be one country at one time. We had seven provinces, and then Franco put the border across there and there's three provinces in France, four in Spain, so they call 'em French Basque or Spanish. So I fall on the French side, just right across the border, on the north side of the border. A little place called Itxassou.

01:32
(So that's why you said that your name was pronounced in different ways?)

Yeah, because I'm a Basque, is what I am.

(I see.)

You know what a Basque is?

(Well, from that region.)

[laughs] They don't know where we came from. We're not related to any other group of people in the world. Our language is not related to any—it's one of those dead languages that nobody knows where it comes from. It has no root to it. It's like the Estonians and that stuff.

(And I thought it was Spanish, so when you said you spoke Spanish—)

No, I speak Spanish, yeah, but it's not Spanish. No, it's totally, totally different. We say it's the language that God speaks. So if you have any requests, we'll take 'em later. [laughs]

(Did you grow up speaking that language?)

Yes, I did. That was my first language. I had to learn English, so that's what messed me up.

(When you got here, probably?)

[chuckles] Yeah, when I got here I had to go to kindergarten, first grade and stuff, and I had to learn English.

(Really?)

It was tough. I used to have a temper so I'd start cussin' in Basque and people thought I'd lost my mind, you know. They didn't know what ADD was back in them days. [laughs]

02:38
([chuckles] Tell me again what age you were when you immigrated?)

I was a little over three years old when we came over, so I was pretty young.

(So you probably don't have any memories of that time?)

No…I've got a little bit. I remembered the place where we were in Lovington. I have memories of that. I don't remember the trip on the ship. It was the *Queen Mary*, and I don't remember the trip.

(Why did your parents come over?)

It was 'cause after the war there was nothin' to do. People forget that Europe was decimated, France and stuff like that. People—the Americans forget that. My folks couldn't find any work. They had gone to Algeria and tried to work there. That's where I was born. I was born in Oran in Algeria. Then they came back to France again, back to the Basque country, to Itxassou. My brother was born there. And then after that, six mouths later or somethin' after he was born, they came over here.

03:36
They had to be sponsored. My dad must have known somebody, must have known a guy. There was a guy named Martin Arregui that my dad came to work for, workin' sheep. We started workin' sheep.

(In Lovington?)

In Lovington, right.

(I was gonna asked how they picked Lovington, but it must have been they were sponsored?)

Yeah, they were sponsored by Martin Arregui. This is the way I understand it. And then later on my dad met another guy from over there, his name was Jean Irrissary, and he lives in—by Sacramento, in Dixon, California. He's about 80, 81 or somethin' now, old Jean. They went together on a ranch over in Moriarty, near Longhorn over there. It was durin' the drought in the '50s, early '50s, '52, '53, somethin' like that, '54. I remember it was a bad, bad drought. We had to ship all our sheep off. We had to herd 'em, we herded 'em all the way to Moriarty on foot, I was a kid. I remember doin' that, puttin' 'em on the train. That was pretty amazing, you know. Moriarty was small [chuckles] back in them days.

04:46
That about broke my mom and my dad there, and they went to work for another man named Charlie Waller up by Cline's Corners, runnin' about 10,000 head of sheep.

(And all this is in New Mexico?)

Mm-hmm, close to Encino.

(Now, there are other Basque in New Mexico, correct?)

Yeah, mm-hmm. There were a lot of Basque around Encino, there were the Victor Pereze's and the Eugenio Perez's, the Naldas, the Burgettes, the Gardes, the Gazolas [chuckles]. There's quite a few of them that were in there, yeah. As a matter of fact, there's a Basque studies program at the University of Nevada, Reno that I get a lot of literature from and stuff, tryin' to stay current with it. [chuckles] I don't know who the new one is, but they had a Basque priest that they would send over to California. His parish was the Western U.S. The first one that I met, he called me one day and asked me, he said, "Are you Basque?" And I said, "Yeah." He said, "Ah!" His name was Jean-Pierre Cachenaut. He was a character and a half. He drove a Oldsmobile '88 diesel, and he had a radar detector in it.

([laughs])

[laughs] He was quite a character, man.

([laughs)]

Anyway, a crazy son of a gun. He'd go all the way up to Wyoming, Elko, Nevada and do all those things up there. Yeah, yeah, just the kind of priest you need. [laughs]

([laughs])

He was one of them you could talk to, you know?

(Sounds like it!)

Drink some wine and have a visit.

06:21
([chuckles] So you started with the Service in '73?)

In '73, and my first assignment was Encino. I got that assignment that Jerome Morris had had. I started there, and I found me a— [laughs] I found a little camp trailer there this lady named Emma Lucero had, and Emma was—bless her heart, she's one of these ladies that's just anal-retentive clean, you know? I mean, keeps everything meticulous, I mean, you know, even the Pope couldn't sit down in her place. I mean, just clean clean. She had a little trailer, and I remember I had no—we were skinning coyotes and because they were worth money, and I had no place to keep those hides, so I kept 'em in the back bedroom of this little trailer that I had. And one evening she came over to snoop to see how I was doin' and she knocked on the door and I saw her and I went and closed the little partition. [laughs]

([laughs])

I had about 40, 50 hides stacked up in there. It's a wonder she didn't run me off. She didn't see 'em.

But then I ended up buyin' a little trailer for myself, and I stayed in it. I was doin'—I started courtin'. I met this gal in Albuquerque and I got to courtin' old Lou over there, and I helped her move to Santa Fe. It took me a long time, about two years. I'm real slow.

([chuckles)]

Anyway, we got married and I bought a house in Encino. I spent I think $3,500. I took out an FHA loan, 35 bucks a month payments. You have to remember I was workin' for the government then.

07:58
(And you said you had to buy your trailer?)

Yeah.

(Even though they kind of expected you to live in that?)

Yeah.

(Did you also have to furnish your own truck?)

No, no, they provided me with a vehicle. No. I had a vehicle then. I had different ones. But the one I remember, I had an old baby-blue-colored one there, a step-side Chevy with the three speeds on the column, a little six-cylinder. Had to load it up with rocks and stuff in the winter just to try to get through the snow. It was terrible. You look back and you don't know how you made it, you know. But we made it.

We raised a son and stuff there. I spent 11 years in Encino, trappin' in Encino, Torrance County. But I did more than just Torrance County. When I was there, I used to—they used to send me up to Espanola. Just wherever they send you, I'd keep workin'. And then I traded with the guy that was here in Las Vegas, his name was Larry Sandoval. He was actually from Encino. His folks had a gas station there, Fidel and Magdalena. He wanted to go back home, and the school had shut down there in Encino, and we were sendin' our son to Vaughn. There was just nothin' goin' on. My wife was havin' trouble tryin' to find employment. So we made a deal and we ran it by the state director and he OK'd it, so we swapped positions. He went to Encino, and he's still there, and I moved to Vegas. So it worked out real good.

09:32
(I want to back up just a little bit. Did you grow up hunting and fishing, is that how—you mentioned the retiree, that's how you got into the work, but did you hunt and fish as kid?)

No, no, I didn't do that. I would just work sheep.

(Really?)

I used to stay in the camp with that—well, back in them days they called them *braceros* instead of "wetbacks," you know. They would bring—they did have papers. We got pick these guys up around Capitan somewhere, these old Spanish guys, and put 'em up in a tent, you know. I used to stay with 'em, had my bedroll and stuff. I learned how to stack rocks and throw rocks. [laughs] I didn't learn how to fish. [chuckles] There was no damn water! [chuckles]

([chuckles] Or hunt or trap or anything like that?)

Well, the trapping was just trying to catch those coyotes and keepin' 'em off the sheep, and that's all it was.

(I wondered, when you mentioned sheep, you must have had some experience with coyotes?)

Yeah, yeah, I went on coyote drives and stuff like that, but I spent—most of my life was doin' the ranchin' thing. So that's my background's more ranchin' than anything, like workin' sheep. Sheep are like people, you know. Maybe they're a little smarter. I don't know. [laughs] But anyway—

10:50
([chuckles] When you were in Encino, what kind of work did you do in terms of animals that you trapped and control work?)

Oh, for the outfit? Yeah, I was doing strictly coyotes, that's all I was doin'.

(That's it?)

That's it. There were a lot of sheep people there. There were a lot of sheep ranches back then. There's hardly any sheep left now. I used to work the Hindi's and the Borgette's and Eugenio Perez and the Perez's and Lahita Harvey. They all had sheep. McLaughlin's had sheep. Ernesto Perez, Supriano Perez, all those guys had sheep. There was a lot of sheep in those days, and that's basically what I did. I ran a lot of snares. I used to run maybe over 700 snares and I used to work, you know, mountain there and the [can't understand word], the whole county. And then I did prairie dog projects. I did two summers where we hired students, some kids for the summer and we poisoned prairie dogs on horseback all summer long, did that for two summers, supervised that.

(You said poisoning prairie dogs?)

Yeah. We were puttin' out zinc phosphide in oats for prairie dogs. We were doin', pshht, sections and sections of prairie dogs, how many was just unreal. I don't know how many prairie dogs we killed, but eh! they all came back, you know, resurrected. [laughs] But anyway…

12:17
(When you said the snares, that's primarily how you caught coyotes?)

Snares and traps. I ran a lot of steel traps and snares. Back then we didn't have so many regulations. We didn't really have hardly any regulations on us as far as trappin' and stuff, not like it is now. Now, you know, you've got the—what, every 72 hours you have to check a steel

trap and like, Colorado, you can't even use a trap 'cause of the petitions and stuff, the initiatives they passed over there. So I've seen a lot of changes, you know. I got to the point—I'm at the point now where, oh, I don't know, I can't think 15 years ago, I turned all my steel traps in.

(Really?)

It's just not economical for me to run steel traps and service all the people I need to service. I can't be goin' to a place twice a week, you know, when I'm tryin' to service 15, 20 people at a time. So I use strictly M44s now, that's what I use. That's 'bout all I use.

(For coyote control?)

Yeah. But when I came up here to Vegas, see, the transition from Encino to Vegas, when I got up here, I changed totally. I went from the sheep country to cattle and calves, and I still ran traps, I still did traps, and M44s, but then I recognized the need for beaver control up here, so I approached the game department and I initiated a beaver control deal. I ended up trappin' beaver, and I'm not braggin', but I was the number one beaver trapper in the state. I mean, I've taught Game and Fish personally how to trap beaver, bear, lions, stuff like that. But I took it on myself here and then I got the outfit to give me the traps.

14:01
Well, no, at first the outfit wouldn't even buy the traps. I used to get the Conibears from the Game and Fish warehouse.

(So there were bear and lion here but not necessarily in Encino?)

Yeah, in Encino it was basically just strictly coyotes and bobcats, that's all it was.

(Bobcats. How'd you catch bobcats?)

Basically the same way as coyotes, with bait, your urine bait and stuff. I remember tryin' those Christmas ornaments they sent us one time with the little tweeter, with the battery. I tried that one time, I remember, I set the trap and I had the tweeters hangin' up there, and I had it in a plastic bag, and I come by the next morning and that bobcat had stomped all over my trap and tore up the plastic bag and everything like that, but the ground had froze. [laughs]

([laughs])

So my trap was froze and he danced all over it and I didn't catch him.

([laughs])

So I gave that up. [laughs] But it worked, I mean. It was somethin' they sent us from Research, back when they used to be in Denver.

(So you used traps for bobcats?)

Yeah.

(Because some people use dogs.

Yeah.

(That's why I ask, but you used traps?)

Yeah. When I came out to Vegas, I ended up startin'—I started usin' dogs then. I had my own string of dogs there for—well, this is the last dog I've got here that [can't understand word]. But I had dogs. I used to run—I had some Rhodesian ridgeback crosses, is what I had. I used 'em up here for coyotes and bear and lion and stuff. I sure miss havin' dogs with me. I used to carry 'em in my truck all the time. I've still got my truck set up for dogs, I've still got my cages in it, but there's no dogs there. They're a lot of companionship. They really help you out. You get attuned with 'em. You get telepathic with 'em after a while, which is really neat. They're good things to have.

15:58
(And I've talked to—it sounds like with you, too, the dogs almost become part of the family?)

Yeah, yeah. I had a deal one time when I was up here south, up on these canyons, I was workin'—I was lookin' for—actually, I was trapping dogs. There was a pack of wild dogs. It turned out there was a Great Dane-pit bull cross female, big son of a gun, wild son of a guns. They were killin' cattle. They were killin' these correntes. I was lookin' for 'em. They had everything run off of that mesa up there. There was no rabbits, no foxes, no coyotes, no nothin'. But I went to look at a rim on the canyon, left my truck, and I went with my dogs, and I got to the rim and I looked at it and I realized I wasn't where I thought I was. I was a little further than where I thought I was. Anyway, I looked around. I was lookin' for cats and different things, pokin' around like you'd normally do.

I started back and I got into these tall Ponderosa pines and I didn't remember those pines. Hit a trail and I started down it to head for the truck, and all of a sudden I just realized that the dogs were walkin' next to me, right beside me instead of out ahead of me like they normally do, and I just stopped and I thought, "Somethin's wrong here." I looked around and I looked at that dogs, and I said, "Hey, you guys, get in!" And they turned around and went the opposite direction. I was goin' the wrong way. I was, like, just totally turned around, and them dogs knew it, and they were just like, "OK, where are you goin'?" [laughs] Pshht! They took off for the truck. "Man," I said, "Man, you've got to trust them dogs. They know what they're doin'."

(So you followed them, turned around and followed them?)

17:44
Yeah. I just turned around, and I realized, I said, "Wait a minute, they know where they're goin'. I don't." I was plumb turned around. It was weird. You hardly ever had anything—I've had that happen maybe a couple times to me, where you get disoriented or whatever, you know. But anyway. Maybe it was an astrological thing that was happening, magnetic, who knows? [laughs]

([chuckles] Might have been a comet or something?)

Yeah, could have been.

([chuckles] You mentioned when you came here that you did bear. How did you catch bear?)

Well, here in Vegas, when I was workin' here, I worked here for 20-some years, let's see. The bears I did with leg snares, foot snares.

(Ok.)

I learned how to use those. There was a guy named Jim Lackey [?] out of Arizona that first came up with those foot snares for bear and lion. We got a guy named Mike Graves [?] down at Cruces that really helped fine-tune those with him. Takin' little workshops, I figured out how to use 'em, so I've caught bear, a lot of bear and a lot of lion with those things, foot snares.

(Did you do a bear cubby?)

Yeah, you'd do the cubbies. Yeah, I've done stovepipe sets, all kinds of different sets.

(What's a stovepipe set?)

18:58
You get a piece of—I used to use aluminum irrigation tubing then, about six inches in diameter and about 16 inches long. You'd dig a hole with a posthole—tsst-tsst!—down in the ground and you put a slot down the side of that tube, about halfway down. You set this down, this tube, all flush with the ground, down in the ground, and you put your bait down at the bottom, and then you set your throwin' arm and stuff, and the trigger goes down that slot so it's at least more than six—like, 10 or 12 inches down inside the tube, and then you set it all up, and then you put a big old rock on top of the tube so the raccoons and stuff can't get it. What happens is, the bear will smell it, and he'll just roll that rock over it. It's no big deal. He'll just roll it, and when he pulls it over, he'll stick his nose in it and smell that bait, 'cause he's already smelled it. They have a real good sense of smell, bears do. He'll smell that bait and stick his nose in there, and he won't be able to get it. He won't trip the thing because the trigger's too far down. Then he puts his foot in there. The snare will be on the outside and it'll catch him. And then the bomb goes off.

([laughs])

[chuckles] Yeah. I'll tell you a story about a bear here in a minute if you want.

(Oh, go ahead!)

20:17
About five years ago or six years ago, August, we had just come back from California, my wife and I, brought a friend of hers. We'd moved her over here to go to the university. It was a Saturday, and Lou and Josh were off doin' something. I was sittin' here, and I got a call from the head of the Game and Fish out of Raton, from the district area officer. Her name was Joanna Lackey. She called me and says, "I need your help bad." I said, "What's the deal?" She says, "We have," she says, "a possible homicide of a 93-year-old women in Cleveland," which is right up near Mora. She says, "I need you to go up there and look at it."

The state police were on it. I took off and went down there and the state police were waitin' for me. They took me in the house and OMI had already gotten there and taken her out, taken the body out, but—it was bear had gone in there. He had crapped three times in the house, walked in. The officer asked me, "Is that bear droppings or is that horse?" They looked like horse droppings, like [chuckles] when you feed a horse fresh hay and they drink a bunch of water and they get those real wet-looking biscuits, you know? I said, "No, that's a bear." We went in and sure enough, he'd kept her by the refrigerator. He had come in the front door. He'd killed this lady and ate her, fed on her. So I tracked him out of there. I remember the state police guys askin' me—oh, it was crazy, there were people standin' around and stuff. Her son was there. He was an alcoholic and he was yellin' at me in Spanish, tellin' me, "This was my mom." I told him—it was really hard to concentrate, because I had to think why I was there. I was there because I had to do a job. I was there as a professional to help on something and give my opinion.

22:20
Anyway, I tracked this guy out of there, where he had come out. He had crossed a guard rail on the way across the road. Anyway, the Game and Fish showed up and they brought this guy named Calvin Stoddard. [laughs] Calvin's kind of a half-outlaw. He's from here. Had dogs. Old Calvin was red-haired and had a mohawk. [chuckles] Anyway.

So I get the cell phone, one of the officers, Joey Vega, hands me a cell phone and it was Joanna Lackey, his supervisor, and she asks me, she says, "Do you trust Calvin?" I said, "No, but I trust his dogs." [laughs]

([laughs])

'Cause you don't get a reputation like his with bad dogs. So anyway, they said to use the dogs and I said to put these dogs right here, and he put 'em on the guard rail and off they went. It was less than 15 minutes we had that bear treed.

(That fast!)

Oh, yeah. We knew that bear. I thought, "That bear's here up close." He was just sittin' around waitin' for us. He fed. They do that. They hang around. Anyway, we went over and got that bear and we shot that bear, and the people jumped all over the truck, the Game and Fish truck. They jumped all over. It was crazy, trying to take pictures and stuff.

(You mean when you brought the bear back?)

Yeah, when we were to pull him out of there. So we ended up, it was me and the two game wardens, Mark Olsen and Joey Vega. And we went to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife fish hatchery that they've got there in Mora. They have a locked gate. We went over there and got behind those locked gates with this bear. The news media was showin' up, and we didn't want to screw with that. So we went in there and we did the necropsy. We did it by the book. We weighed that bear. We took pictures. I cut him open. She was inside. [laughs] I got to dig in there. I found part of her scalp and then I found her left ear. When the ear came in, I told Mark, I said, "This is an ear, man." We tried to figure out which side it went on and we figured it was the left one. Then

we had to bag all that [pause] put it in ice and stuff, put in it a chest. I went down to Alsaps (?) and got one of those styrofoam [chuckles] chests and we had to send it to OMI, 'cause it was a homicide.

24:39
It turned out, after they did all the checkin' and stuff, it was the first documented case of a human fatality by a black bear in the state of New Mexico. Why I ended up bein' there, I don't know. But it was just amazing. I've got all the pictures and stuff there at the state office, all the crime photo shots of the lady. If you're a biologist, I tell people, "If you're a biologist, you want to see what bears do to people, you need to go look at that, as a professional, just to get that in your resume, just stick in it there, so you understood what can happen." And this bear was not hungry. He had a full belly. I think some dogs chased him, is what happened. I think he was tryin' to get away from some dogs and she just happened to be up. It was in her kitchen. Wasn't cookin', wasn't doin' nothin'. Came through the window and they danced one last dance. She loved to dance, they said, at the senior citizens' center. She didn't suffer a bit. He took both her hands off, and she bled right out. Poh!

(How hard was that for you?)

Well, it was—you know, you have to look at it in perspective. It was like I told you, I had to think to myself, they asked me, the state police asked me, "Do you want the photos of the crime scene, of the women?" and all that. And I debated about it. I didn't know if I wanted to see stuff like that. But then I thought to myself, "Look, I'm supposed to be a professional. Maybe I'd better approach it with that attitude." And that's the way I looked at it. I looked at it—and I'm glad I did, and I thought to myself, "Well, this is historical, too, and I'm involved, whether I like it or not." So I documented everything. I made a record, and it's all at the state office. The autopsy report, a copy of that is over there with the stuff. So there's a file. 'Cause like I said, it's the first time that's ever happened, and it's been documented. So that was cool.

26:40
Anyway, that was an interesting thing. I have a lot more respect for bears now. [chuckles] I've turned a lot of 'em loose and stuff, too, I've had to turn 'em loose because they're the wrong ones.

(How do you know that they're the wrong ones?)

You can tell by what you're trackin', the size of the tracks and stuff like that, and you catch it and you say, "This ain't the one I'm lookin' for." Turn 'em loose.

(So you're looking for the specific ones who do the damage?)

Yeah. That's the whole idea, yeah.

(You mentioned lion. Do you do that with lion, too?)

I have not turned a lion loose, but I've caught lions, yeah. I caught two within 10 days one time. There was, I caught three in a month, which was real unusual. I hadn't caught any in years and all of a sudden three in a month, which is amazing. Cats are amazing.

(How so?)

It's like chasin' a ghost.

(Really?)

You know they're there, but you can't see 'em. You know they're watchin' you and stuff, but you can't see 'em. [laughs] The dogs know they're there! [chuckles] It's pretty amazing. You come up on a kill and you know they're watchin' you and stuff. You know they're around there close, because you're messin' with their kill. So you've got all that goin' on. It's pretty neat.

(Did you use dogs with the lions?)

I used my dogs, but I foot-snared 'em.

(So you used 'em in combination?

Yeah.

(How did that work?)

It worked good. Well, let's see, how can I say that? I used my dogs to trail where they had the kill, to find a kill, where they had it stashed, 'cause they cover 'em up. Like, I had this one where this little old man called me up here by the river, by Mora, old Filimon Aragon. He's a story and a half, too. I got drunk with him one time over there. Anyway— [laughs] First time I met him. First time I met him, he's just an old guy way out there at the far end, as far as you can get away from civilization on two tracks through a bunch of wire gates and stuff he's stash back in there. This is what's neat about our job. Anyway, I had inquired about this guy and somebody had told me that he had killed his uncle and burned him up in a house back in there somewhere.

29:05
On the way down there to this guy's place, I saw a burnt-up old adobe house. [chuckles] So I met old Filimon over there. He says, "Eh! Come on in here!" Talking to me in Spanish, you know. I just talked Spanish and he liked me right away. So we went in and he started pourin' me whiskey, and I said, "No, no, no, just a little shot." "Oh, OK." So we got to be friendly. He had a two-room house, that summer-winter thing, where they move from one room to the other depending on what side the wind's blowin' from. Anyway, he just kept drinkin' and drinkin'. He kept gettin' drunker and drunker, and he had, like, a .45 on his hip, and he would take it out, slam it on the table [pounds on table] and put it back.

([laughs])

He was tellin' me stories. He had a bunch of goats and a couple of burros and some old dogs.

Anyway, I had to take a leak real bad, and I couldn't get away from the old guy. Finally he got up to go take a leak and I said, "This is my chance." No, he just stood in the doorway—

([laughs])

[laughs] and peed out the door! [laughs] God Almighty! I couldn't get around him. He kept goin', and I hadn't eaten, and he had me half-flipped. But I remember when I finally left, he gave me $60, three $20 bills, and asked him to bring him back a bunch of fifths of whiskey and so many pounds of dog food.

([chuckles])

And I did. I came the next day.

Anyway, I hadn't seen old Filimon in years, and I got a call that he had lost a colt to a cat. So I went up there and got down and he told me, "Right here, this is where they killed it." We went to the spot and my dogs, I had two of them, two at that time, they took off. They took off, like, north, towards the river. He started takin' me south, following this drag. He says, "Here's where it took it!" I wasn't payin' attention, I just noticed my dogs went the wrong way and I hollered at 'em, "Get out of there!" I followed this drag back over there and I started losin' it and finally lost it in an opening. I kept thinkin' to myself, "Why in the hell would this cat take this thing this way instead of takin' it to the rim? It should be goin' the other way." Sure enough, we were followin' it the wrong way, and it was just his excitement of seeing it. He didn't look at it right. All the grass was bent the other way. I told him, "Look, Filimon, it's this way."

31:24
So we went and sure enough, the dogs knew—they had already found the kill off the rim. [chuckles] I caught that—I set a snare there, a foot snare, on a Tuesday. I come back Wednesday morning and I had caught a lion, but it got away from me, which is real unusual. It bit the lock, it compressed it on the snare, and it slipped out. That's the first time I've ever had anything like that. It was a fluke.

So I reset everything and put a neck snare, and came back Thursday morning and it was foggier than hell. Had old Filimon with me, and we drove up to the point there, and when I got out to let the dogs out, they got out and they took off in the fog, and took off, and then me and Philemon were gettin' out and I heard the dogs open up, "Brrr!" I said, "Come on, old man!" Filimon was, like, 76 or 78, high blood pressure.

([chuckles])

We went down there and we had that female. I put him within me and you of that—she was still alive and lookin' straight at him. I shot her right here and pulled her out, and she was caught by the hips. [laughs] With the neck snare. She was pregnant with four kittens.

What had happened is, I had caught a yearling that she had the day before. She had a yearling with her, and I had caught him, excuse me, excuse me. [gets up] And if I would had held one, he would have stayed in that trap, I would have caught her. But I ended up killin' five cats that day 'cause she was pregnant with four.

[goes to door, opens and closes it]

33:05
This is Wink. Wink, we've got company. She's got one eye. She'll keep an eye on you.

(She's a nice cat. Basically, you would use the dogs to find the kill and then set the snare where the kill was, because lions tend to come back?)

Yeah, they come back to their kill. With dogs is the best way to catch 'em. It's either that or get on a hot track and run 'em with the dogs and try to tree 'em. Sometimes you can't tree 'em. What! [sound of cat meowing and dog barking]

([chuckles])

Anyway, I'm not that good of a cat man. I'm not as good as a lot of other people who are a lot better than I am with cats. I used to run with a guy named Pete. He was with the Game and Fish department years ago, used to ride mules. He had white mules. Him and Frank Smith were the only bear and lion trappers that Game and Fish had. They used to each do half the state. I learned a lot from Pete, just runnin' dogs with him, ridin' mules. He was amazing. I asked him about the mules. "Hey, how're these mules, they pretty good?" And he says, "Hey, let me tell you. You ride a mule all day, when you get off, your ass will smile," he told me. [chuckles]

([laughs])

[chuckles] I said, "Man, I gotta get a mule!" [laughs]

([chuckles])

He was quite a guy, old Pete. He lives in San Acacia [?]. I've seen him since he retired and stuff. He's a good old guy, yeah. He had good dogs, though, good dogs. [chuckles]

(Did you do coyote work here, too?)

Here in San Miguel County, here in Vegas, I did coyote work and mostly coyote and a lot of beaver work, like I told you. I did a lot of beaver work. I'd do it in the dead of winter, through ice and stuff like that. I did a lot of it. I shipped the beavers down to Carsys (?), I'd ship 'em to Roswell, to our guys down there to make bait and stuff for M44s, for coyote bait.

35:04
(How did you discover that there was such a problem with beaver here?)

Well, there's a lot of acequias here. Acequias are these irrigation ditches, these old, old Spanish irrigation ditches, you know, that have been here since whenever the Spaniards showed up. And these guys started to tell me that they were havin' troubles with the beavers pluggin' up their compuertas, they call them, their headgates. I started thinkin' about, "How do I figure this out?" So what I did, I just asked Game and Fish about it, and they said, "Yeah, get after it." You know. Pshht! Here I started, and then Ken Podborny was my supervisor. He had showed up from Oklahoma. He knew a little bit about beaver trappin' in Oklahoma, and he showed me a few tricks, and then I just took it from there and then—like I said, I got to be the—I was the number one beaver trapper in the state, countin' private people and all that. I mean, I trapped a lot, a lot

of beaver. People were surprised. People didn't know they were that big. All these old-timers, these Hispanic people didn't have a clue how big beaver were. I took one out that was 80 pounds one time, out of the acequias up here. That was a big son of a gun.

And then I got to the point where I even made a video on beaver control. I've got a video. I made it with the conservation district here. I did that. I mean, I really got into it. I got publications from Canada on beaver control and different things they do, exclusion methods and all that. The Research Center, I talked to them and I got stuff from them about beaver control and exclusion stuff. So I did a lot.

36:42
I did the rookie school for the Game and Fish. [pause] God, how many years did we do that? Four or five years. I took other guys with me and we'd teach 'em how to trap bear and lion and beaver, the rookies comin' up.

(For Fish and Game?)

Yeah, the state, yeah.

(Did you primarily use as control methods traps? But then you later mentioned exclusion methods.

Yep.

(Did you do both? How did that work?)

Both, yeah, 'cause things changed, you know. I did a lot of Conibears, those kill traps, the 330 Conibears. I've gotten caught in 'em. They are not pleasant. [laughs]

(You got caught in one?

Yea.

(How did that happen?)

I tried to set one on my leg with my hip waders and it slipped on me. There was a Game and Fish guy with me at the time, and the dang thing caught me in both hands, and he laughed, man. He told my brother, he said, "Guess what I caught today?" [laughs]

([laughs])

But anyway, but that same guy, those Game and Fish, I also learned how blow up dams, and I got into the explosive thing, too. Yeah, I used Conibears, mostly, and I tried some neck snaring, snaring beaver in ground sets. I talked to guys from Mississippi about it, and got some snares from them, had 'em shipped up and I tried that. I realized that I didn't want a neck snare on these ditches, because they tear up the ditches.

(Really?)

Oh, man, just like a badger. So I said, "Oops, I'm doin' more damage." So I stayed with strictly Conibear on ditches.

38:16
(What did you do for exclusion methods? Explain that.)

Oh, like, tellin' people how to put not chicken wire, but metal lath around trees and stuff, and then the Research Center sent me a deal about paint with grit in it. You put 30-mill grit in the paint, like you use for, like, walks and stuff for ramps for handicapped people to get grip and stuff, and you put that grit in there with a non-toxic alkali-based paint.

(Painted on the tree?)

Yeah, and it's got to be at least three feet tall. And then the exclusion stuff, you've got to put some bars up, too, so they don't push the wire up against the tree. If you use chicken wire, if you wrap it right against the tree, they'll go in between the spaces and gnaw. You can go to Villanueva State Park over there and look at those trees that they cut through the wire and chewed on it, or they just pushed it against the tree. They just sit on their tail and just push it, you know. They're really amazin'.

And then I learned all my own, even for the Game and Fish and stuff, I learned how to sex those beaver, too. Nobody knew how to do it. I figured it out by feeling for the baculum on the males, on their penis, and they have a little bone in there. You can feel it. They all look like females. They have a cloacial opening and so everybody always told me, "That's a female." "No, uh-huh." I'd get the castors and the oil glands out of 'em and learned how to skin 'em. Pretty neat. I learned a lot about beaver. [pause] Those are beaver teeth.

(Really! In your bracelet?)

Yeah, right there.

(The two orange ones?)

Yeah, the four orange ones. Those are those front teeth.

40:05
(Interesting. [pause] So you came to kind of enjoy beaver?)

Yeah, I really got into it. I got to the point—it's just like anything else, if you're gonna do it right, you might as well dive into it and learn all you can. Then you get to a point where you have respect for 'em. The beavers, nobody would have problems with 'em until the fall. In the fall it's 'cause they get hungry, they start gettin' ready for the winter. So they—I figured this out, I mean, it was just—people have no common sense, but I'd tell 'em, I'd say, "Look. Beavers can't climb trees, and they like that real tender stuff up on top, like those aspens or the cottonwoods. That's the real tender stuff. So they'll knock the damn tree down to get it. That's what they do." It'd come down and then they'd limb it, they'd trim it up, take all that stuff and

stash it in the water and make their stash under the water and keep it ready for the winter. So they'd come under the ice and get their food all winter.

I got to figurin' out how you could tell if it was a big beaver or an adult or a juvenile by how high they would cut up on the trees, by the height of the cuts. You'd come into a dam situation, most of the beavers here have bank dens. They have dens in the bank. They don't have those lodges like you see back east. There's a few lodges here, where they'll make a pond with a lodge,.

(Really?)

but most of 'em are under the bank. Those dogs even helped me find those dens. They'd find 'em. They'd start diggin' the tops of 'em out, you know. They have a vent up on the top on the bank where they've got to get air in there, and they put, like, sticks up on top of it, tangled. That's like a security alarm. [laughs] Case somethin' comes diggin', they go whht! down in the water and they just get out of there.

41:52
I learned a lot of tricks. I learned a lot of stuff on those things. Like I said, I even made a video on 'em, beaver damage and control. It was funny. [chuckles] It was three guys, me and two other guys did it. I didn't know how to run a camcorder, so I got a guy named Gary Sedillo to run a camcorder, and this guy Marcario Herrera, he was with the soil conservation district, he did most of the—what do you call it? [pause] He put the stuff together, and I did all the technical stuff. I told 'em how to do the shots. I was the director. I told 'em, "We're gonna shoot it this way, we're gonna do this." And then we got this gal named Dolores Maese from the Forest Service to help with PR, to do all the narrating. So we did a woman's voice for the narration to make it softer and all that, you know. [laughs]

([laughs])

[chuckles] And then exclusion, I was gonna tell you, I taught people how to do exclusion, because there's a lot of real heavy-duty, like, environment people have moved into the area and stuff, so you have to be aware of their feelings and all that. I can relate to those people. I figured all that stuff out. I know how their chakras are lined up and all that.

([laughs])

We get that goin'. Yeah.

(How long were you here in Las Vegas?)

I worked out of Vegas here for at least 20 years. 20 years

(Really?)

I think I was workin' out of Vegas.

(And where and when did you move?)

Well, it's gonna be four years I've been workin', I started in July, four years that I've been workin' out of Roosevelt County in Portales. What happened is, the county ran out of funding for our program here, and they just cut it. So I was basically out of a job. The state director said there was an opening in Roosevelt County. There was a kid there that had been there a year, but he wanted to be a gunner in a plane, and so they moved him to Roswell, created a vacancy, and so it was Roosevelt and Curry County, two counties. They weren't fully funded. So I moved in there, and I moved a camp trailer, which belongs to the government. They were really nice to let me have a camp trailer. I've got it sittin' over there. I didn't know where to go. I didn't know nothin' about Roosevelt or Portales. I didn't know. But I remember when I was in Encino, I had a next door neighbor named Toby Garcia. Really neat little old man, he was, like, 76 or 78. He was our next door neighbor, him and Sue. I had heard that he had moved to Portales. So I looked him up and sure enough, I got over there and it turned out he has a brother named Robert Garcia, who is kind of a influential man over there. He was the first Hispanic to be on the Chamber of Commerce, first Hispanic to be on city council. He started as a janitor at Portales Ace Hardware and worked his way up to owning it. He owned it and ran it and then sold it. He ended up becomin' the first Hispanic Mason in that area and stuff, so he's just a super, super nice guy, this Robert.

45:16
So it turns out that Robert and Toby lived close to each other, I mean, they were right there next door to each other. So I've got my trailer sittin' right there at Robert's house. He let me camp there, use his electricity, doesn't charge me rent or nothin', and then Toby [chuckles] is right next door, so it's like old home week, you know?

([chuckles])

And what's neat about these two guys is that I get together with 'em and they come over to see me and we get together and we tell stories and we do it all in Spanish. And so that really keeps my Spanish goin'. We just have fun, you know. We do carria and all that stuff. We just have fun talkin' in Spanish and tellin' stories. So that's really neat. So it's been great.

The hard part is havin' to commute, is driving.

(How do you do that?)

I go up on Mondays. I leave on Mondays and I come back on Thursday. What I do is, I put in real full days, I do a long day Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and come back, like, around noon, 2 o'clock and head back on Thursday. Then I come here and, like, on Friday or Saturday I'll do my MIS and all that on the computer, get online. But I also got a wireless card for my laptop, so I can go to the university over there at Portales and I can get on wireless and just do that.

46:40
The other thing I did when I got there, within a year I got—I worked and I got Roosevelt County to put up full funding. They were puttin' up $18,000 and change, and I got 'em to put up another $12,000, to put up $30,000. So I did that all on my own. So I'm just workin' Roosevelt County now.

(And here in New Mexico the counties fund this state program, basically?)

Right. It's a cooperative program.

(Is there anyone here in Las Vegas, then?)

No, no, there's nobody workin' this, 'cause we have no contract here. And I've been tryin' to get the contract back. What's amazing, you spent 20 years in an area like this, and people know me, and I'm gettin' calls all the time. And now that I've got this cell phone, people are—my number's comin' out, and people call me for advice out of this county. "What do you do about skunks? What do I do about pigeons?" Whatever, you know. And just this weekend I had a lady call me about bats in her attic and how to block 'em out. I said, "Well, they're probably gonna leave by now." It got cold, you know, so they migrated out, but they'll come back. I told her what to—I printed up stuff and handed it to her. I'm not even workin' this county [chuckles] but I'm still on the sly providin' service.

(You can't go out, pretty much? You couldn't go out and do coyotes?)

No, I can't do that, uh-huh. And I can't do it personally on my personal time. Like, they'd say, "We'll pay you." I say, "I can't do that, it's conflict of interest." The thing is, you spend a lot of time doin' something, like, I've been doin' this for 33 years, I guess, and you get to a point where you just about know what you're doin', you know, and— [laughs]

([laughs])

You start—you've got tricks and stuff in your head, and it's good to pass it on, you need to pass it on so other people can have it. So now, what I'm doin' up there is, I'm learnin' a whole new territory. It's a whole new environment, sand hills, it's farming and dairies and CRP land that they put aside for 10 years where they don't let nothing grow on it, CRP. People call it the coyote reproductive program, 'cause the coyotes stay in there hidin'. When the goddang grass is that tall, you can't see 'em. And then the sandhills, with all that shinery and stuff. I've met people, like, with that chicken project, the prairie chicken, the lesser prairie chicken, and I'm real outgoin'. I just go right ahead and introduce who I am and tell 'em who I am and I go say, "I'm gonna find out about it." I go with 'em and check out their chicks and see how they do that, their telemetry and stuff.

49:23
I went the other day to a seminar on playas and stuff, and it turns out I'm on the front cover of their newsletter, their magazine. There's a picture of me on there. I've networked all the time. I've always felt that—well, I was on that Futuring Committee, and that's what really kicked me over and really got me goin'. I feel like this agency needs to be real proactive. We have people in the field that know so much stuff, but a lot of our guys are limited as to what they do, and a lot of it is because they choose to be that way. There's a lot of guys that do nothin' but coyote, and that's all they'll do. They'll do four or five ranches and that's all they'll do. They won't expand. They won't go out and do any more.

Me, I'm not like that. I go, I sell grain. I do gophers. I do pigeons. I do—whatever comes up, by golly, I'll go try it. If I don't know anything about it, I'll go find out. I'll go find somebody that

knows and get some information and figure out how to do it. I've always been like that. Pass that knowledge on, pass it on, pass it on.

(And you pass it on to who?)

Anybody, anybody. The cooperators, the people I run into, the people I work with. Whenever we have meetings and stuff, you network with a guy, he'll tell me, "I've tried this and I've tried that and I'm tryin' this now. What do you think about this and that?" You try to keep that goin'.

(So you mentioned the differences at Portales. What animals do you work with there?)

Mostly coyotes.

(Really?)

It's mostly coyotes, but God Almighty, the coyotes over there are like grapes, you know, they come in bunches. [chuckles] Pshht!

([laughs] Are they easy to pick?)

Well, I tell you, I got over there with those M44s, and phsst! There ain't nothin' to catchin' a coyote. I mean, it's like, gee whiz, man. I tell people I've killed the same coyote over and over.

[chuckles]

I have. I mean, I've killed him for 30-some years, the same one. It's like, you never run out. And then you get to a point, too, where—I mean, I do anyway, I get to a point where I wonder why I'm even doin' this. You're not really getting anywhere. But what it is is, you're just doing a management.

51:40
(You mean because the coyotes keep coming back?)

Yeah. You're just doin' a maintenance thing, that's all you're doing, just like trying to stay ahead of mice in your house or whatever. If you don't do somethin', you'll get run over. That's just all there is to it. There's a—there's different factors that have caused these coyotes to just explode, I mean, all over. I'm not talkin' just here in New Mexico, but I mean all over. When we, when the agency quit usin' 1080 at the end of the '60s, the first of the '70s, whenever we quit usin' 1080, that stopped a lot.

(Using 1080?)

What was wrong with the, what happened with 1080, when we were usin' 1080, the agency was usin' 1080, people were also usin' drop baits, strychnine drop baits. So a lot of the public doesn't have it straightened out. They think that the strychnine was what was killin' everything, and they blame it on the 1080. People don't know their chemicals. [chuckles] Cyanide, strychnine, 1080 [phone rings] People don't know the difference, it all sounds the same, it's a toxicant. [phone rings] Excuse me.

52:43 End file 2.

File 3
00:00
(We'll get started again. You were mentioning the different work up at Portales, but mainly coyotes. Any beaver?)

No, it's too damn dry. It's sand. [laughs]

(Really?)

Sand. Yeah.

(No mountain lions?)

I hear stories on the cap rock that there might be some. The thing over there now, I think, it might be hogs, I've got some wild hogs comin' in, feral.

(Feral pigs?)

Yeah. We've got some up north over there up by Norton [?] that Ron Jones out of Tucumcari, they killed some last year. He's doin' tests on 'em. So I'm lookin' for wild hogs, seein' if I hear anything.

(They comin' in from Texas?)

I think they're comin' up the River, Pecos River, is what I think they're comin' in, and some out of Texas, too. Got some javalinas that have moved in and I haven't seen them, but I know people that have seen 'em, reliable sources. Things like that. It's mostly coyotes, skunks, pigeons, gophers, prairie dogs.

([chuckles] What do you do with skunks?)

I used live traps. I lend out live traps. I've got to where I usually just lend it out, tell 'em what to do, tell 'em how to dispose of 'em when they catch 'em. Prairie dogs, I've got to where I sell mostly the poison, aluminum phosphide tablets, zinc phosphide grain. Just sell it to 'em. I hardly ever help 'em put the stuff out, 'cause I've done that. I just don't have the time. I told the county commissioners, I don't have time to be doin' that. [chuckles]

(It's a big county?)

It's not that big, really. It's only—it's probably less than—it's not even 100 miles long and about 40, 50 miles wide. It's not big at all. This county's big, this one here is over 100 miles long and wide. This was a big county here, San Miguel. When I was here, I did a lot of work. At one time, I used to work from here, I used to go all the way past Taos to Costillo by Colorado and work up there by Ute Mountain and RCCLA and then I'd go that way in the day and work up there in the afternoon and go over the mountain through Eagle Nest, that was Cimarron and like that, and go

to Maxwell and go past Maxwell on I-25 to Laughlin Peak, there's some peaks up there, you can see 'em. I had a camp up there at a place called Jimmy Springs for a guy named Henegan. I'd spend the night, and then I would go and work all the way around that Henegan, that Baldy or Laughlin Peak, I'd work around it all that day, come all the way back and come home, spend the night here, and then I would head towards Conchas and I would work all my way down and I had another camp down there, at this ranch called Webb's, and then I would spend the night there and the next day I'd get up and make another circle and come back a different way and come back home. [chuckles] I did that for a couple years, I think, or a year or two. I had that camp and I was workin' plumb up past Taos and up in there. I had a two-wheel-drive pickup, propane in the back. They tried that one time. That was ridiculous, tryin' to save some money.

03:25
I had a meeting the other day with Kurt Gustad, do you know him?

(Yes.)

Him and Allen May, I met them in Roswell, and I told 'em, "We need vehicles, man. It's an insult the stuff they're givin' us." They gave me a brand-new Chevy now, and it's a piece of junk.

(Really?)

Just barely sits off the ground. I high-centered on a cattle guard the other day, I mean, I hit bottom on a cattle guard goin' real slow, just goin' over it, boom! I said, "You know what? I've been workin' for 33 years, and they give me a truck that has an AM/FM radio in it, not even a cassette player."

([chuckles])

You'd like to hear somethin' besides Rush Limbaugh, you know? [laughs]

([laughs])

Not that I listen to him. I tried him for about a week and I said, "Jeez, forget that!" So now I've got from rock and roll to NPR. I don't know what the hell's happened to him. [laughs]

([laughs] Were you gone a lot? Did you do a lot of camping?)

I didn't do that campout till I got here to Vegas. When I first started, I did a lot of camping. I had a camp down at Conchas, 'cause that was what was set up at the time when I got here with Larry. So I did that too quite a few years, too, havin' that camp down there. But it was just one night a week. I'd go down and spend the night and come back the next day. That campin's pretty rough. From here, I had a camp one time, too, I was workin' out of Union County by Clayton in the Dry Cimarron, I remember. [chuckles] I set up this camp at this guy's place. I had a brand-new dog that we had found. Turned out she was a Rhodesian ridgeback. I'd raised her for about a year. I figured, "Well, I'm gonna take her with me," you know, campin'. So I took her with me to the camp to see how she worked. I got up one morning and went out and decided to do some coyote callin'. I had a leash on her, a little chain. I tied that chain to my belt and I made her sit down

next to me and I sat down and I started callin'. I called up a coyote out of this arroyo. Man, boom! when I shot that thing, that dog took off and started draggin' me [laughs] across the pasture!

([laughs])

God damn! [chuckles] 'Cause I had that thing tied to my belt. Oh, my God.

05:42
(How did you learn to call coyotes?)

This new supervisor—well, he's not new now, but the new supervisor we got back at that time, Ken Podborny, he's the supervisor for the Albuquerque district, he's in Albuquerque, when he came from Oklahoma, he got everybody to callin'. I guess they did a lot of callin' in Oklahoma. Hell, nobody knew anything about it here, you know, so we started. He taught us how to do it. Almost everybody does coyote callin' now 'cause of what Ken came up with.

(So it works?)

Yeah, yeah, it works. But then what happened is, like, now, there's people, almost everybody and his dog does callin', so you come into areas, just like when trapping was big and everybody was trappin', they'd try all kinds of baits and this and that, pinch coyotes or something, and as a last resort they call a government guy in and he had to work over all that. He had to come in with something totally different. So, same thing with callin'.

(I've heard that coyotes get smarter, so when you're the last one called in—)

Well, I wonder about that. I don't know that the coyotes get smarter or the people get dumber.

(Really?[chuckles])

Yeah. I mean, it's—I think that's really what happened. I think the people are the ones, not the coyotes. You're always dealin' with a different coyote. And they adapt. They adapt so well. They know when you leave the house and when you come back. They figure out the routines and stuff. They know when to lay down when you come by. They know the sound of a vehicle, they know when it's slowin' up. They got all that stuff figured out.

07:17
(Did you ever do any aerial gunning?)

I tried that a couple times in a couple planes, out of the fixed wing, and I enjoyed it, up to the point where—I mean, I could do it, you know, but the thing I didn't like about it was, I was just sittin' there in the back seat, just sittin' there. I just really wasn't doin' nothin'. I remember I worked with a guy named Chuck Bingham [?], who was the first guy I flew with. I did all right. I could hit them coyotes. But I got tired of that av [aviation] gas smell and stuff like that, too. But they were always after me to be a gunner, because I was small. They said, "Man, you'd make a great gunner." I'd gun out of helicopters. That, no problem. As a matter of fact, I crashed in one over there, too, down by Conchas one day. Pshht! [chuckles]

(Tell me about that.)

That was exciting. [laughs] Yeah, we'd been huntin' for about two weeks. We started up at Gladstone, with Arlyn Miller was the pilot out of Boise City, Oklahoma, Arlyn and his wife Debbie. They used to call her Little Debbie. You've seen those Little Debbie pictures on those Little Debbie donuts? I'd give her one of those mainly. They were real, real nice people. We'd start up north and we'd come all the way down into—me and old Pete Marez were workin' down by Conchas. It was a kind of overcast day, high humidity was what it was. What do I know, after the fact?

08:5
We'd hunted about two hours that morning and we let down to refuel.

(This was in a helicopter?)

In a helicopter, yeah, this was a helicopter. We let down by Conchas when we were there to refuel. Debbie, Arlyn's wife, was runnin' the fuel truck. This game warden came by, Mark Olson that was the game warden from here. He just happened to see us landin'. We were talkin' and I told him, "Hey, you want a ride? We'll give you a ride real quick, just buzz you around." He said no, he was in a hurry, so he took off, which was a good thing.

Anyway, we swapped out. Pete got out, 'cause he'd been gunnin' that morning, and he got out. I got in. We took off, me and Arland. We were gone—we weren't gone five minutes, maybe, I don't think it was even 10, five minutes or somethin', and we'd gone, we weren't that far from the truck, but they just didn't see us. Debbie and Pete were over there talkin'. And we made a pass by this creek, lot of mesquite. We made a pass. We were going about 70, I think, about high as a telephone pole off the ground, 'cause we were huntin', and [snaps fingers] the engine just quit. I mean [snaps fingers] it just foom! [snaps fingers]

(Just stopped?)

I mean, quit. It didn't sputter. It just quit. It just died. It got quiet. [laughs] And I remember I didn't look over to Arlyn or nothin'. All I could hear was him workin' them sticks. [chuckles] And I was lookin' at that ground and I had the shotgun out the window. I don't know why, maybe because I'm such a dedicated employee, you know, [laughs] I said, "I better not hurt this shotgun."

([laughs])

I remember thinkin' that. So I brought the damn thing in. I had enough time to bring it in and put it where it belonged. I watched that ground, and I mean, we just— [claps hands] we just went in. He flared it as much as he could to slow it up, you know, and there was a little tiny opening there, and he skidded in there, and when we hit, the skids busted out and boom! We went like that. We hit and we didn't roll.

(So you basically just came straight down?)

No, no, not straight, we were movin'. We were goin' about 70 miles an hour, see. We were goin' forward, and what he did, he tried to stop that forward momentum as much as he could, by flaring, which they have to do when they auto-rotate. When he did, he brought it down, those skids when they hit, they just blew out. We were just falling. Boom! they went out, and we just hit on the belly and we just came to a stop. [hits hand on the table] I remember thinkin' this might be it. Big deal. Anyway, it was, like, fast slow motion. I don't know if you've ever been in a wreck or anything like that. Everything slows up for a while. It gives you a brief moment to recall things and make amends. [laughs]

(It's amazing, even though it's happening very quickly, how slow it feels.)

It just slows down. It's fast slow motion, is what I call it. Anyway, we hit and we still had our headsets on, our helmets and stuff. He asked me, "You all right?" I said, "Yeah, I'm OK, you OK?" "Yeah, I'm OK." And then I looked over to him, like that, and he was there, and then I looked past him and I thought, "What the hell's that over there on the ground?" It was our tail rotor [chuckles] sittin' out there. We tried to call the truck, 'cause we weren't that far from them. We weren't five miles from the truck. They never saw us go down. Of course, the antenna was on the bottom of those choppers [claps hands] so we couldn't get no communication. So he shut all the electrical down and we got out. We didn't catch on fire or nothin'. We had a full load, I mean, we had just filled up, man. So we were real lucky.

12:38
He had a cell phone, and he climbed up on that thing and he couldn't get his wife. I don't know if she had it turned off or what. He couldn't get her, and I could not remember Pete's number. I couldn't remember if it was 3006 or 3030. I knew it was a rifle, but I couldn't remember which one it was. It was really odd, 'cause you get kind of disoriented. So we ended up callin' the state office, and the guys were havin' a meeting, and [chuckles] we had them call Pete and then Pete, this and that. And then I kept tellin'Arlyn, I said, "Tell Pete to come in this gate over here." He says, "Well, you can walk straight to the highway." I said, "Yeah, we can, but there's a road right here within a quarter of a mile and if we can get them to come down and they can pick us up on this road, it'd be a lot easier than tryin' to cross the creek and go that way." Anyway [pause] they got ahold of them and they came and they picked us up.

But when happened, when we hit, the blades came around and cut that tail boom in half, just cut it and threw it. It was a total, it was a total—I mean, we broke a couple motor mounts on the engine, lucky it didn't come down on top of us. Next year I got in with him again.

(Really?)

He came back and I figured just like bein' in a car wreck or bein' throw by a horse or whatever, you fall off a bicycle, you just get back on. What you are gonna do? You can't be afraid all your life. So that was exciting. [laughs]

14:10
(So you've basically done more helicopter than fixed wing?)

Yeah, more helicopter work. I like helicopter. It's neat. 'Cause you can cover so much more country and you can see things a lot better, it's slower, you can go back and look at it real quick.

I like it because you're workin' the harder country, real tight country that's got a lot of brush and rocks and stuff. It's really neat. You can see some really interesting stuff from the air. I like helicopter. But I'm gettin' to the point now where I'm startin' to get old and my eyes are different. I get a little vertigo now if they bring the chopper and just hold it straight up and just hover high like that, I start gettin' real bad vertigo. I don't like that. As long as it's movin', I'm OK.

(Do you do some of this over at Portales?)

We did some, the first year I was there we did some around Portales and around by Fort Sumner there, off the Pecos there for Dwayne Milliron, the trapper out of there, the specialist. I like chopper. I've flown with some crazy guys, though, some nuts and a half. I've flown in wind and stuff with some guys, some of the Vietnam veterans that would come out there and start havin' flashbacks and stuff. [laughs]

(Really!)

Oh, you're wonderin', "What in the world is this guy doin', man?" And then I've flown with some guys that—we had a guy named Tim Kieling [?], we called him "Crash" Kieling, 'cause he crashed after he left us. He crashed twice, as a matter of fact. He had kind of—he had a junky helicopter. We were up at Clayton flyin' and his starter went out. He wouldn't turn the thing off to fuel, he'd leave it runnin'. He was doin' what they call "hot fueling," which is dangerous as hell. He had a Bell 47 with the saddle tanks. He'd put his finger in there tryin' to feel the gas. If that stuff would have fallen over and hit the manifold, whew! We would have burnt. He was a nut and a half. I think he was the same guy we had that didn't have a shooting door the for winter for us, he just took the door off, so we were just freezin' our ass off flyin' up there. And then he wouldn't take the pedals out, the extra pedals, wouldn't take 'em out of the platform, so they were in the way, which is really dangerous when you're' flyin'. [laughs] Yeah.

(We are at the end of this CD so we'll stop with this set of questions.)

16:41 End file 3.

File 4
00:00
(This is CD #2 of the interview with Pat J [tries to pronounce it.)

Jauréguiberry. Forget the U's. [laughs]

(Oh, that helps. While the tape was off, you mentioned something about being struck by lightning.)

Oh, yeah, that was a really interesting thing. I think you get pretty lucky in your life, the way I look at it. Anyway, I was workin' one day east of town over here. It was in the evening, about 5 o'clock, and I was comin' home, and there was a little rain shower startin' to happen over here by this—there's a little lake I was comin' into off of Joe Harris', and I was listenin' to Paul Harvey. [pause] So anyway, I was comin' down like that, comin' west, and on the south side of the lake where the storm was comin', I saw lightning hit, tuutuu! in the lake. And then, just 10

seconds later, another one hit on the north side of the highway. My brain told me, I said, "I'm liable to get hit." So I remember I grabbed the steering wheel with the tips of my fingers and I put my elbow on the door rest and then I had a little plastic console thing there, and all of a sudden I hear the loudest bang I've ever heard in my life. I mean, it's like a crack. It's hard to describe. No resonation to it, it didn't resonate. It didn't go boom! crack! It just—it was there and gone. And I remember, I just tightened up and I looked and my speedometer went to zero. Zhhw! And then the radio went off. I was still goin' 60 miles an hour, and I'm thinkin', "I got hit by lightning. No, I didn't. Yes, I did. No, I didn't." My brain was tryin' to relocate itself and reboot.

01:59
Anyway, I thought, no, I tried my radio and then I tried my two-way radio I had, the government radio. Tried, no squelch. What the heck? All of a sudden my speedometer came back. I'm like, "Wait a minute, what am I doin'?" I'm still goin'. I'm, like, 14 miles out of town. So I kept comin', I'm tryin' to figure out, get the logic goin' here, rationalize what happened. I thought, "Ah! It hit the radio station in town, that's what it did." I told myself, "That's why I don't have a radio. Ah, ah! That makes sense. OK." So on the way into town, the radio station was there and I stopped and it's still sprinkling. A guy named Doyle was runnin' the radio station, and I went in and said, "Hey, Doyle, are you on the air?" He says, "Yeah." And I said, "I don't know what happened. I'm not sure if I got hit by lightning or what." He goes, "What?"

So we went out and looked at the truck, and I had about this much antenna left. [gestured with hands]

(Oh, my!)

It just vaporized the antenna for the two-way radio.

(So you had about six, eight inches left?)

03:02
Yeah. [chuckles] And then there was a scorch mark on top of my cab. He says, "Man, you got hit!" And I go, "Whoa! Man! What the heck? OK. I'm gonna go home." So I started to get in the truck and I had a flat on the passenger's side front tire [pause] and I got out and took my wrenches out and my jack and all that stuff, and I cussed God, I told him, "God damn you, what are you doin' to me?" [chuckles] I changed that tire in the rain and put everything back, got goin' in the truck again and my front tire on the driver's side was flat. [chuckles] I go, "What the heck is goin' on?" So I have to call a guy to bring in an air tank and air up my tires and stuff, and he did. I called my wife from the station and I told her, "I think I got hit by lightning." She says, "You know, you sounded totally weird." I sounded, like, real wired, you know.

So I came back, parked the truck, and next thing the back tire was flat. All my tires went flat on me. I had pinholes in every tire. It burned out my ABS brakes. So I did, I got hit by lightning. I went to sleep for about four hours straight, and when I woke up, I felt like somebody had beat me up. My whole back, from my neck to the cheeks on my butt were sore for about a week. Oh, man, I was sore. I think what happened was, I tensed up so fast when that thing hit that all that lactic acid went through my muscles. But no, I got workman's comp. I went to acupuncture. I've been rewired, my electrical system is not the way it used to be. [chuckles] Yeah. It's amazing. It

was really an amazing thing. It was really neat. So people ask me if I'm afraid of lightning and I say, "No, 'cause I know what it can do."

04:51
When they get you, you don't know. You can't do anything about it. It's like, it's so fast. It's really neat. It's like, you don't have time to pack your bags. Just boom!

And then I had the dogs in the back, and I thought it'd kill them, but no, they were all right. But I was movin', I was goin' 60. I tell people, I had 10-ply tires, radial tires on there. If I would have had 6-ply tires like they usually sell you, I think I would have had a blowout on that front tire and I probably would have had a wreck and they would have found me out there and thought I just fell asleep and ran off the road or somethin' like that, and nobody would have known the difference. They wouldn't have figured it out.

But I remember I went to the state office, and one of the guys asked me, he said, "Are you sure you got hit by lightning?" I thought, "Duh!" [laughs] I said, "Come here." I've kept that antenna, I still have it. It's like a piece of baling wire. It took all the tensile out of it. But let me tell you, it is—I don't remember seein' the light at all. But I heard that crack, and it just was loud, loud. It's like somebody just took somethin' and hit the top of my cab—which they did. [chuckles]

([chuckles])

They took a shot at me. But anyway, that was interesting. I survived that. I did that, and it was, like, a year later I fell in the helicopter, the helicopter went down. So I figured, you know, that's a pretty good deal.

([chuckles])

How many people can say they've done those kind of things? Quite an honor.

(In a short period of time.)

I'm pretty lucky. People mostly have boring damn lives.

([laughs]0

"Went to work, came back, went to work." I've done pretty good. [laughs]

06:47
([laughs] You mentioned your dogs. What caused you to stop using dogs in your work?)

Well, I just—I, they got old on me and stuff, and I ran out in it. Now that I've been goin' to Portales the last almost four years, there's just no need for dogs over there. I don't have any use for 'em, so I just have this one here, that's the only one that's left, that blue tick that's there. She's good. She's here, keepin' track of the place, helps my wife out and stuff, goes with her on walks all the time. We still go for walks up on the mountain and stuff once a week, keep going.

(I just was curious. Did you do any work with the Research Center?)

I did. I've done several things with the Research Center. One of the first things I initiated was, I had an electronic Comp U Call that I got from Burnham Brothers that they got me one time, and I worked with a guy name Gene Bourassa.

(Gene is still working.)

Oh, is he? Cool. Anyway. Gene was really nice, and I got him to—I don't know who he got, but they got somebody to do—I wanted to do a remote-controlled thing, because I don't know anything about electronics. I can barely turn on the switch. So anyway, so he got these guys to set it up for me. They set it up where I have a government radio in my truck that has the speaker, what do you call it, the handset? It's got buttons on it, a keypad on it, and it has a tone on it, like a telephone dial tone. Ding! Ding! Each button has a different tone on it. He set it up to where I could have this thing at line of sight, set this box up, I set it in an ammo box, and I can set this thing somewhere and line the sight with my pickup radio anywhere within a distance of five miles, ten miles, and I hit this one tone, like number 1 on that button, and it'll turn that thing on, and then hit 6 or whatever it was and it'll turn it off.

08:56
I came up with that idea for coyotes that were really causing problems, like in sheep country, where they had coyote drives and stuff and they just can't get 'em and they keep missin' 'em. So my theory on that thing was for a man to be able to take this thing and put it in a pasture somewhere, set it up, just drop, set it up, take a GPS coordinate on it, because we all have GPS's—and that's another thing, between my buddy George at the office and I, we got this agency to start gettin' us GPS. We saw the importance of GPS a long time ago, George and I. We worked with a guy from Sandia Labs on that. Anyway, to take a GPS coordinate and then go back home, just leave it there, and then go call the pilot and give him those coordinates. And then, like, let's say, the pilot says he's gonna come on Tuesday, then on Tuesday you go and you don't go in that pasture, you just stay away from it. You go somewhere where you can get in line of sight of that unit, and 15, 20 minutes before he gets there, you turn it on, turn it off, let that coyote come in, and let the plane come in. I came up with that deal. But now they have so many different kinds of calls.

Another thing that I came up with was, I'm on the literature, too, a Guy Connolly put out some stuff on the M44. My name's in there. I came up with this O-ring thing for the M44.

(Oh, OK.)

To keep the dirt out, the sand and stuff. So I worked on that, I field-tested that. And then last year or the year before, with Bruce—

(Kimball?)

Kimball, yeah. Bruce Kimball. He picked 11 guys to try out some of his M44 tops that he's been workin' with, with scent so you won't have to bait 'em and stuff. So we tried those out the first year, and the rats ate the hell out of 'em, 'cause they had corn syrup in 'em. [laughs]

(Rats!)

[chuckles] Yeah, they ate 'em up. They just ate the hell out of 'em. We're still workin' on those things.

([laughs])

Tryin' to develop those things. Anyway, you know, it was great. There were 11 of us out of the country that got picked to do that. We had fun. It's great to do stuff like that, because it perks you back up. You get to do somethin' fresh. I know a lot of guys that are like, "I don't want to do nothin' like that. Gee, unless it works." But I like to try things like that. So that's what I've done with the Research Center.

11:31
(What do you like best about your work?)

You know what I like about my work is the country. I loooove country. I like the nuances of it. I like to watch the changes, the subtleness, to see things. Like, the other day I saw a little snake I never seen in my life. I thought it was prolapsing on me. I saw this little red comin' out by the vent and I couldn't figure what it was. Well, it turns out I know a guy named Charley Painter with Game and Fish that wrote a book on amphibians and snakes and stuff, and he gave me a book and I looked it up. This thing was a ring-necked snake. They're real rare. So I got to see one of those. It's like, "Wow, look at this!" I see all kinds of bugs and stuff. I know a lady in Las Cruces for the extension named Dr. Carol Sutherland. She looks like Jane Hathaway [chuckles] from the Beverly Hillbillies. [laughs] She's an expert bug person. I called her the other day on these millipedes that I just happened to see, so I sent some to her, and they had to repackage them at the Post Office, they were eatin' out of the box. [laughs]

([laughs])

[chuckles] I sent about a dozen of 'em to her. I'm always—I like to do different things. And then another thing that I like to do that I've initiated on my own, that I've done on my own, I've got a dog and pony show. I have collected over the years skulls, and I continue to collect skulls of all kinds, furs, hides, antlers, horns. I've got a whole thing there in the shop. What I have done is, I've taken it upon myself to do public relations stuff. I did this all on my own. Nobody told me to do it, but I've done it on my own. I go to schools and I give presentations. I go different places in the state and guys call me up, like, here in October for two days, I'm gonna go to Hobbs again, to Kids and Cows, they're havin' a thing. I'll go help Richard Luce with his program. We'll put on a presentation for like fourth graders, do, like, a thousand kids come through there, show 'em furs. I do hands-on stuff, furs and hides. I get the kids wired, screamin', going', you know. I throw skunk hide skins at 'em and stuff, snakeskins, things kid just don't see, and they get to touch. I go to Grants, I've gone to Grants over there and done that one for Jon Grant. That one is so neat because there's so many Native American kids there, and a lot of 'em, they can't touch certain things, because they're—you know, like religious, like taboo, you know, they can't touch 'em. So that's challenging.

14:08
But I've done that on my own, and I really enjoy doing that. As a matter of fact, for a long time there I had an extra element in my performance standard that allowed me to do public outreach

and public relations stuff. That kind of stuff I really enjoy, really enjoy. And what I've enjoyed, too, over the years is the lack of supervision that I've hard. [laughs] In other words, nobody's been on my case every day. Nobody bothers me. They give me a lot of freedom to explore and expand. I do a lot of networking with interagency people, Soil Conservation, Game and Fish, Forest Service. I get my name out there. I work with county agents, sheriff's department, state police. I've done that all on my own just to make the program—I've got my fingerprint all over the darn thing. It's really kind of messy, but— [laughs] I've got it out there. But that's what I enjoy, I enjoy that freedom.

And then I enjoy the people. I run into—I imagine anybody you talk to that works for this agency will tell you that. That's the best part, is the people. You hear stories. You hear stories, you know, just amazing stuff. As a matter of fact, I'm journaling with that laptop.

(Good.)

I'm putting down some stuff. Pretty neat.

15:32
(You mentioned the country. Have you noticed in the 33 years changes?)

Oh, yeah.

(What kind of changes?)

Oh, what I've known, I've known this for a long but, but what's amazing to me is what people don't understand, especially urban people I don't think have a grasp of it, but the earth is alive. And after 33 years, you watch things get covered up. Roads get taken over, rocks roll in. Rocks move, you know, they roll in, weeds come in, the dirt moves. Things get covered up and disappear. And that's what, that's what neat about, like, old maps. Old maps have old roads that you don't find any more because they've overgrown, they get covered up. This earth starts healing itself little by little. It's got its own time. And you see it happen. You've got sand dunes over there in Roosevelt County that actually move, that are moving sand dunes. I mean, not fast, a turtle can outrun them, but they move. You watch things happen. You watch the vegetation change. You watch the trees keep moving. Your junipers are a real pernicious species. They just start takin' over. You see it. You just see it happening year after year, the seasons, you see it.

16:54
Like, this year was amazing, 'cause we had a drought. It was terrible. I mean, it was so bad that the antelope were standin' on the side of the road and weren't afraid of vehicles. They had gotten over their fear, they were so hungry, they had gotten over that. That was up to July and then also in August. Bam! The gardener put the water out. The Navajos have a sayin' about rain. They call it male and female rains. The female rains are real slow, drizzling, nurturing rains that come and soak in the ground. The male rains are the ones that tear down fences and run arroyos and flood and this and that.

([chuckles])

In August both of 'em showed up and started dancin', and man, they put the water down!

Fires, I've watched fires. I went and watched this fire that did, like, 70,000 acres. I was, like, between here and that mountain from it. You can see the flames underneath. I wrote in my journal it was a lady that just turned loose and she was dancin', man! She had her black dress with the red trim on the bottom in her hand, and she was just dancin', just havin' fun, runnin' over a town. I just saw it take over a town, whhwhh! [pause] That's what's neat. You watch things, you see a change, it changes.

18:14
And then you watch the people. They change, too, you know. They get older and you don't and they do. [laughs]

(And how about the amount of people?)

Yeah, that's the other thing. I've seen the change in the agriculture. I've seen the change in—the sheep people have gotten out of the sheep business. They just couldn't stay in business any more. You see the cow-calf operations, a lot of 'em have dried up, guys have leased out and run steers and gone into steer operation, which affects us, because they don't care about the predator control, because the coyotes are not gonna bother the steers. And so—and then you watch people movin' in. Like here in Vegas, we're only 60 miles from Santa Fe, and Santa Fe's a real conservative town, you know. [laughs] Duh.

([laughs])

There's some really rainbow-light-crystal people over there, man. But anyway, those people have been comin' from California. They buy these little five, ten-acre plots and call it a ranch, a ranchette, and then they put a horse on it. Which is the worst thing you can do. Horses are terrible for eatin' stuff. They'll make it look like this table in a month. They come in and they come in with all their stuff and they want to compost and they want to put up, and they want to be sustainable, self-sufficient people, and they put up hummingbird feeders and stuff like that, and here comes the bears and the raccoons and everything. They see a snake and they freak out and they go, "Oh, my God." And these are the same people that are probably members of the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy.

The Nature Conservancy people showed up south of Portales and bought a guy's ranch. He had more prairie chickens on it than anybody, all the refuge around him. And the reason he had 'em was because we were doin' predator control, and he was grazing. So they come. Well, then, they pressured him and they bought the place, and now they've cut down his herd in half. No predator control. Then they go to the windmills that have the overflows, that have those little pond overflows, real nice for the—all the wildlife and everything was drinkin' off of it. They came over there and tried to improve it by takin' a backhoe and diggin' a big old deep-ass hole in there, hell. The deer will not go into water that has a steep cut in it. They just won't do it. They don't want to drown. So they ruined everything, but they came in with their good intentions. I see a lot of this stuff happening, where the money behind it from these groups, they have the good intentions, but they just screw things up. They're tearin' up the environment. They're messin' everything up, really. They're makin' it worse, because they allow people to come on it.

20:56

You look at your *Outside* magazines and all these environmental magazines, and they advertise, "Go to Patagonia. Look at it. Go here. Go here. Take vacations. Go here." They're makin' it worse. They're just makin' it worse. We had a guy one time at the Futuring Committee, and guy named John Grandy (?) from the Humane Society that spoke to us. And he told us, he says, "We need people like you to manage our wildlife. But I will not support you with my constituency," he said, "because if I do, we'll lose membership." And that man was probably one of the most honest people I've heard in a long time. He's tellin' the truth. The environmental movement is a business. That's all it is. That's all it is. So I've seen all that, and I've fought those people. I've worked with them. I've butted heads with environmental groups in New Mexico. At the state fair, I ran a booth at the state fair for over seven years. I coordinated the whole thing, just went and did it, just took it over, got to guys to go. Set up schedules, had these guys come in. One guy got lost on the freeway. He just pulled over and called us and said, "Come get me." [chuckles]

(Poor guy!)

Yeah, that's how rude he was. And then we had other guys say, "Thanks, but I'm not gonna come back again." I said, "OK, at least you got to see what we're dealing with." It's like sittin' in front of a river. You watch it ebb and flow. The crowds would come through. So I did that. It just—you know, to work with those environmental people, you have to work with 'em, or else you'll be out of business.

22:35
(What do you like least about your work?)

Right now it's the commute. I wish they'd let me drive the government truck back and forth instead of my personal vehicle. [laughs] With the price of gas the way it is. I'm gettin' tired of bein' away from home right now, 'cause after 33 years of bein'—you know, I started in a camp trailer. [chuckles]And now 33 years later, I'm back in one. So I don't know what I did wrong. [laughs]

([laughs])

[pause] That's probably the least thing I like about it. The paperwork, the reports and stuff doesn't bother me.

(Really?)

I've taken on the laptop and, hey, this is an opportunity. Look at this. They gave me a laptop, for free. Play with it.

(It sounds like you really use it and like it.)

Yeah, I like it. I'm trying to learn how to use it. It doesn't bother me. I thought, hell, I'll go wireless, I'll try that. I've done it. So that doesn't bother me. I know a lot of guys just dread doing the reports. I know our reporting is just terrible. I know it is. I know the data they have is not good, it never has been [chuckles] just because of the nature of the beast, the way we are. We don't put down half the stuff we do, shit. [laughs]

([laughs])

They don't need to know, anyway. But the commute, I guess, is the least I like about it right now, bein' away from home right now. But the other part, I've always enjoyed my job, I've really enjoyed it. I've enjoyed it so much that I've got myself in trouble. [chuckles]

(How so?)

24:20
Well, I'm real outspoken. I just—I've been here long enough, right now I'm the longest-employed person in the state. You see things, you know, I'd like to see things change and I like to think we ought to do things better. I'm real passionate about wages and stuff like that for the employees on the field. I think we're gettin' screwed. I think they should all be GS. I've fought for that for years. I know being AD, we're way lower than GS grade, and I think that's just terrible. I know the foundation of this whole agency is these guys in the field. And we don't need half those people in regional, we don't need half these supervisors. We don't need 'em, they don't do anything. We've got a supervisor and you ask 'em somethin' and they say, "Well, let me ask the state director." Well, gee [chuckles] you know, why have him there? The guys in the field do all the negotiating, we do the budgets with the counties, we're the ones that secure the funding. We've done that. I think they ought to do more for the guys in the field, I really do.

And there's a lot of knowledge there, too, and I think if we were GS we'd have a lot more respect with the other agencies, Game and Fish, Forest Service, BLM, Fish and Wildlife. We'd be in the park with 'em. 'Cause when you go to talk to those people and they find out you're AD, they just look down at you right away. You go down a notch, boom!

(Explain what AD is.)

AD is Administratively Determined. It's a lower rate. It's like a contract deal, I think.

(So you're still a U.S. government employee, but it's a lower level?)

Yeah, but see, for years, I was—like, part of the guys here in New Mexico, part of them were classified state employees and they get paid by the state, so they get a state check. The other guys are federal and they get a federal check. So what I did was, I put enough time in as a state employee to where I retired as a state employee with full benefits, and I worked a deal with the state director and the supervisor, I said, "Look, if you hire somebody, he's gonna have to learn the country, learn the people, get certified. I've got that already. Why don't you just switch me over to federal?" And they did. So I'm grateful for that. I'm glad they did that. I've been a federal employee now for four years. I'm looking for another retirement. [laughs]

26:53
([chuckles] What do you find the most challenging?)

[sighs] The most challenging? Just workin' with the bureaucracy.

(Really?)

Because it gets stagnant. People get complacent, especially administrative people. And I understand that, too, because they have so many reports and deadlines and things that they have to deal with. But to get people to be proactive, it just frustrates me that people will not do that. They will not take the bull by the horns. They won't be like a turtle. You have to be like a turtle. You have to stick your neck out to get somewhere, and they just won't do it. I don't like pointin' fingers, but we had a state director that basically didn't do a damn thing for us for 10 years, didn't secure any state funding for 10 years. It's like, that hurt the program. And the region let him get away with it. It's like, people just won't do it. They get complacent in their positions and they just—I think there could be so much more done with this agency.

When I was on the Future Committee, I was pushin'. I told myself, "We could be the lead agency in the whole U.S. or even the world for stuff." We have the Research Center. We have people. But nobody wants to get the funding. Nobody works hard enough to get it. What do you do with $45 million? That's nothin'. That's nothin'. We're runnin' a program with $2 million in the state. That's nothin'. The Game and Fish runs with $18 million. I think we should have managers in positions of state directors, people that know how to manage money and secure funding. We've got guys that have come up, like, Dave Bergman, he's real proactive. He maybe could get Texas. Mike Bodenchuk in Utah, proactive. He's done stuff. He's not afraid to go out there and do it. That's what frustrates me, that we don't have people that want to do that. I get frustrated sometimes.

28:54
(Sounds like it. What is one of the funniest things that happened while you were capturing or handling animals?)

Oh, God Almighty, I've had all kinds of crazy things happen to me. [chuckles] Had a bear one time, I had this Game and Fish guy with me. He had never seen a bear caught before with a snare, Mark Olson. We went up there, and I had this bear caught, and he could see the aspens moving. "You got something?" We went up there and this bear tore a thing. It was the wrong bear, it was a young male. I told him, "Nah, that's not the right one." So he had a drug kit with him, so we used this stuff called Telesol. We put 2 ccs and shot him with 2 ccs, and he didn't go down. I told Mark, I said, "You know, this guy should go down [snaps fingers] just like that. They go down fast and come up fast." Well, he didn't go down. The dart bounced out of him, 'cause I'd taken the barb out of it 'cause I didn't want to rip him when we took the barb out.

So we had half a cc left, so we shot him with that and knocked him down. [chuckles] I was down there on my hands and knees tryin' to take the snare off his foot with my Leatherman. I didn't have my pliers with me. I was workin' at it, workin' at it, and all of a sudden this bear just lifted his head up right next to my face. [laughs]

([laughs])

That scared the hell out of me and I took off. I came back and I put a log on his head and went in there and cut this cable off, took the snare off. I got a video of him walkin' off.

30:27
I came off the mountain and I remembered that I forgot to pick up all my stuff, my throw arm and the ring and all this stuff for the set. I hadn't done that. I said, "Oh, I'll get it in the

morning." Justin Valdez was the cooperator, he was checkin' all that stuff. Well, that evening, I got home and I had a message on my recorder. It said, "Pat, I don't know what you caught, but it was a big son of a gun. It tore your snare."

([laughs])

"Broke your snare." [laughs] He was runnin' around just scared to death.

([laughs] Did you tell him?)

Yeah, I called him back and told him I cut that snare. I had all kinds of things happen. Years ago, too, I was involved with mutilation stuff. I come on one back when I lived in Encino. It's not funny, I know it's the wrong thing, but I just thought of it. What's funny about it is, they had my picture in the paper. I had my ass stickin' out bent over. You could recognize everybody else except me. [chuckles] They found this steer, it was in the morning, and it was still warm. They found him layin' on top of the snow. Didn't have any ears on him, no blood anywhere, on the ground, on the snow, nothin', man. He was a steer, so he'd already been cut. But they cut the rest of his scrotum out. He was open like that, he just had—a bit of his guts were hangin' out, his intestines were just stickin' out, and his rectum was stickin' out about two inches where he had strained like a son of a—like when you brand 'em, they strain. No kicking, no nothin', just layin' there. And still warm. We had state police, livestock inspector, county sheriff, ranchers and all that. We looked at him. It was done by humans. Both ears were gone, just like the rim of a coffee cup, man, just as smooth as could be. I mean, that bugged me for a long time. I was still kind of new then, and I was nervous. Every time I'd bend over to set a trap or somethin' and I'd hear a strange noise [chuckles] that scared the hell out of me. I seen those things, too. And those are people-caused. I seen all kinds of—anyway.

32:42
(What was one of the scariest things that happened to you?)

Well, I guess you could say that helicopter and lightning and all that, but I don't know, I haven't taken it as bein' scary. I mean [sigh] maybe 'cause I was conscious of what was happenin', aware of it, that it just didn't really bother me. I was aware of the incident and I just took it as just a really unique incident, like a blessing, almost, that I would survive something like that, that I got to go through somethin' like that. That's the way I've looked at it. Scary? You know, you're always scared.

Oh, I have one. I scared the hell out of myself one time. I was over there in this—by the Alesano [?], the Nine Bar Ranch, when I lived in Encino, over there by Cline's Corner. I was checkin' out country through the timber, the amount of trees. I got off of the truck and I went to a tank dam, there was an old tank dam that had brush and stuff dropped of in there, real cat-lookin' country, hard, like, man, there's gonna be a cat. I had a 3030 up against my waist, just stickin' up like that. I was standin' there thinkin' to myself, "Man, this is good cat country. I'll bet there's a lion in there somewhere." And then my stomach gurgled, you know how your stomach growls? I started jumpin' up and down. [laughs] That scared the hell out of me. [laughs]

([laughs])

God dang! [chuckles] I thought I had a cat right underneath me for a minute.

([laughs])

I settled down real quick. [laughs] Got my composure. That was kind of stupid. [chuckles] Stuff like that you do. I used to be deathly afraid of snakes, and then finally I decided, "Well, I'm gonna go—" There was a snake wrangler over there in Espanola, and I went and took a workshop with him one day. I said, "I'm gonna go learn how to handle these things." So now I carry a hook with me, and I look at 'em better, I get in front of 'em, check 'em out. I've even met a man from Sweetwater named Billy Mack [?] that has one arm that has won the round-up over there four times out of eight, the rattlesnake round-up. So I've learned to get over that fear of snakes. They used to scare me real bad. A lot of people have a lot of fear of 'em. So I try to educate people on how snakes work and what they do. I still have respect for 'em.

35:12
I've also gotten involved on my own, my wife and I do it, I've transported a lot of birds and animals and stuff, and lot of wildlife to a gal named Kathleen Ramsay in Espanola, Dr. Ramsay. She has a rehab center called the Wildlife Center. I've taken a lot of stuff, eagles and hawks and all kinds of deer, you name it. Elk, I've taken raccoons, baby foxes. The other day, a Mississippi kite had a nest up there by the pool in Portales, and she was attacking the kids [chuckles] you know how they get real aggressive, and the city police and the chief called me. He was in the panic. They were gonna have a frontier days that weekend and he was afraid somebody was gonna get hurt. I called a gal up from Hawks Aloft in Albuquerque and she came with a portable incubator, left at 5 in the morning, got there at 9. The city provided a cherry picker. I went up there and took the nest down and took two eggs out of it and gave them to her. She put 'em in the incubator and took 'em all the way back [chuckles] to Albuquerque to raise. So I do stuff like that, which is not the normal stuff most trappers do. To me that's interesting. I learned a lot, I know a lot about how birds work and how to handle 'em. I've learned all that on my own.

(What's your favorite lure recipe?)

Right now, seein' as how I'm usin' M44, I've been just gettin' commercial. I've gotten lazy. [laughs] Back when I used to make mine, I used to make beaver. The beaver was the best. I used to grind it up. I still have oil from the tails that I've got in the back in barrels that I've been cookin' for years. But now I use this product called Powder River. I've had real good success with it. It just saves me more time. I just order it by the gallon and just use it all winter. When I was runnin' steel traps it was coyote urine. You get a pint bottle, a whiskey pint bottle, a brown one, brown glass, and you put a pint of urine, one gall bladder to a pint of urine. That was it. Maybe a little bit of glycerin, just to keep it kind of oily. Use that. That was best. Didn't really get into dirt hole sets and stink baits and all that, 'cause I was in sheep country, and in sheep country, you had to catch 'em. So you put guides and stuff and made your traps real tight and stuff. Urine worked the best.

37:55
(What's your favorite trap to use?)

Right now, it's the M44. I've really gotten to learn how to use it. I respect it. I know, you can hurt yourself with it, just like anything else. I do not like them, but I do not like these new traps

they've got, these Sterlings and all these other sets, the Montgomeries, the new ones that they've come up with, the jump traps, I don't like 'em.

(The steel ones?)

Yeah. The new ones, the way they're made now. I always liked the #3 long spring Victor. I liked it better than the #4 Newhouse. We had guys from Texas that came in and tried to tell us that we needed Newhouses, that they were better traps. I'm a small guy. I can't set a Newhouse. I can't break it on my knee like I can a Victor. So I've always liked Victors, #3's.

(Why did you switch to the M44?)

Because of the restrictions on the traps, trap check, every 72 hours you had to check 'em. I don't think it's right for us to be goin' into somebody's land twice a week, tearin' up their country, just to go check a damn trap, you know? Same thing with the M44. I think they ought to lift the restriction on once a week. I think they ought to lift it to once a month, 'cause once that unit is pulled, it's inert. You're not gonna kill nothin'. So I tell the environmentalists, I said, "You want me to kill more coyotes because you want me to check that thing every week and reset it." [laughs]

([chuckles])

"Huh? It's your fault. You guys are the ones puttin' the restrictions on us, the regulations. If you'd make it once a month, I wouldn't kill as many things." That's probably not true, but that's kind of the way I look at it. But it's wear and tear on the people's land, too, on the environment, the fact that you have to go in there just to go check it.

(When you used steel traps, did you ever make any modifications to them?)

Not really. I remember when they started using the pan-tension device and stuff like that. I kind of bucked that. I didn't care for that, really. My logic on that was that if you set a trap right, you caught what you were after. You don't go set a trap just to set it, just to say you've got steel in the ground. I worked in sheep country for 11 years, and like I said, I had to catch the coyote I was after. Those guys didn't like me if I caught a rabbit [chuckles] or if I caught a skunk. You had to catch that animal. So it made it more specific. You had to read your sign better, you had to know what you were doin' and realize where you were makin' your set. We still have guys that will not set two M44s at one time, they'll just set one. Or they won't set four at once. They've got the steel trap mentality that it's only one set here and one set there. I think you [pause] you just have to know what you're doin'.

41:00
(Have your trapping techniques changed over the years?)

Oh, yeah, all the time. When I first started, it was a deal where you had to wear gloves, had to have a kneeling cloth, you had to have your sifter. You couldn't chew tobacco or spit anywhere near. You couldn't take a leak anywhere near your trap. If you caught a coyote, you had to pull that trap up and put a clean trap in there 'cause they would smell the blood. That's all a bunch of bunk. I just—you'd carry all kinds of stuff in your truck. I just started lightning my load and I

realized you don't need a kneeling cloth. I used to chew tobacco, and I used to spit. I'd catch coyotes just as good as anybody. That old man Earl Jones I started with, he used to catch coyotes with brake fluid, put brake fluid on bones or cheap perfume or a piece of lipstick and rub it on there, anything to get their attention. That's what you're doin'. You're dealing with the canine, something on four legs.

Just change. You don't need this, you don't need that. Same thing with the M44. You started gettin'—instead of wrappin' it with wool like we used to or with denim or whatever, we're down now to—mixing paraffin, we never could get the paraffin right. You always got the temperature wrong. And so I told people, "We need to get one of those [pause] little, what do you call those things? Little crock pots and melt it for consistency." I got that idea when I did bronze, when I started taking bronze, for melting wax for bronze. You would melt it and there would be a consistent temperature. We went from that to soaker hose, just put the soaker hose, that's just the easiest thing now there is, that soaker hose. Pshht! Boy, you can replace tops just like that. I don't replace my—I keep my same tops year after year, let that stink just stay on there. The more it stinks, the better.

(Seems to be working.)

Yup. Yeah.

43:13
(If you had a grandchild ask you about trapping secrets, what would you tell him or her? Do you have any secrets?)

To trapping? I don't think it's a secret. To me, all trapping involves is observation.

(Really?)

You just have to read—it's just like readin' the paper. You just have to read the sign that they leave you there. You look at what you have there. Who's comin' in, how many of 'em are comin' in? You can start tellin' male from female by the size of tracks. You just figure out where they're coming. If there's water, if it's a real dry year, you work around the water. You know they got to come in for water. And you can find their trails and they'll run them same trails year after year after year, generation after generation. You make a good set, you find the right spot, you'll always catch somethin' in that set. Regardless of what you put, if you put a trap or an M44, a snare. Well, hell, they're simple. They've got to go under that fence, duh. How simple is that? There's no bait or nothin' involved in that. You don't need those treble hooks like people were doin' on snares at one time to catch the hair on 'em. Nooo, you just set a snare. It works.

There's really no secret. The secret is just bein' simple. The simpler you make it, the better. If you complicate it—it's just like life. If you complicate it, it gets hard. That's what I'd advise. I'd tell 'em to read the sign, read what's there, look at it, see what's happening.

44:52
(What do you think trapping and wildlife management will be like in, say, 50 years?)

That's a good question, because we've got so much urbanization, urban sprawl goin' on. I believe, like this old man told me one time, he said, "We have bred the common sense out of people." And I think that's really true. But it's a cyclical thing. I look at it like that. We're in a cyclical process, human beings or the planet or whatever, you know. It's just like the seasons. You have to see it that way. If you're aware, you can see that's what happens. The trees are turning 'cause they're goin' into dormancy. We're gonna get to thick again where we're gonna collapse, just like all the other civilizations that have come and gone, your Mayans, your Incas, your Egyptians, your Romans. Come on, you put somebody up as a deity, whoa, hello, bye. The magnetic poles may switch back again, like they did once before. The Native Americans call it the "big tilt." So 50 years from now? [pause] I don't know.

There is so much abundance in the world as far as agriculture. We're producing so much food that people are throwin' away. I don't know what's gonna happen. I don't know that there's gonna be a need.

(For wildlife management?)

I think if it'll be anything, it'll probably be avian, maybe. Because now I've started talking to people about this AI, avian influenza. Just talkin' to a guy last week from vet services about it. They're real concerned. We may have a pandemic comin' down the pike. So we may not be concerned with coyotes and stuff. I don't know. I really don't know what's gonna happen. I think it's gonna be a lot different than it is now, because I think our agency probably will not exist if we keep goin' the way we're goin'. The old story that everybody tells is, you have to remember who brought you to the dance. That's the story that I keep hearing. Well, my response to that has been, they've changed the band. [chuckles] They're playin' a different tune now, you know? [chuckles]

([chuckles])

I don't know if you've noticed, but we're doin' rap and this, come on. You have to be flexible. You have to change.

47:28
We might get people that'll keep the program going. Maybe what we need is stuff like what you guys are doing, and maybe what we need is workshops. Maybe we need to collect these people, the Glen Rileys [another interviewee] and these people that have this knowledge and we need to bring these young biologists that don't know a damn thing 'cause they got it all out of a book. This really bugs me with some of these biologists. You can't come with that attitude. I did it with the Game and Fish rookies that come with the degree, a wildlife degree, and they didn't know nothin'. No practical sense, no common sense. They didn't really know nothin', they just knew theory and stuff like that. And it doesn't work that way when you're on the ground. It just doesn't work. Maybe we need workshops set up like that that have nothin' to do with supervisory stuff, to pass that knowledge, just to pass it to these younger people. Like orientation things for the people that are comin' on board.

Or make 'em work with guys. Spread that wealth around, that knowledge. That might keep us goin'. But we need people that are proactive, that are not afraid to go take care of pigeons, starlings. Man, I've got 120-some dairies over there. If I started the bird work, I'd be full-time

doin' birds, if I just approached the dairy. I know they've got the problems there. But I can't do it, because I don't have the financing. The backing is not there. We don't have the money to employ people to do that.

49:12
(What do you see as the biggest challenges facing operations people, people who do what you do?)

It's money.

(Really? It's a resource kind of thing?)

Yeah. It's the funding. I say that because the funding doesn't give us the equipment we need. We're workin' with junk. We're workin' with surplus crap and stuff from leftovers from other states. My supervisor just the other day went to California and brought in some traps from California, hired a new guy, and the poor guy is goin' through somebody else's junk to go set up and work a program in Lincoln County. That's not right. That's an insult. I mean, our guys are worth more than that. We need good equipment. We don't get it. It's the vehicle thing, too, again. They ask us what we want, and somebody from GSA makes a determination. I told Kurt, I said, "I'd like to know who that guy is and talk to him and chew him out." It's funding. It's funding, because it always comes down to, if we don't have the funding, they're gonna cut somebody at the bottom. It's never on top. And I've seen it on top.

I remember one time we had an assistant state director here for two years that didn't do nothin'. Nothin'. I mean, nothin'. [laughs] Had no direction, had nothin'. Had no say-so, nothin'. Just sat there. Went to Guam once in a while, and that was it. I mean, he was a good guy, but they sent him back to Texas.

(I have a follow-up question to some things that you've said and then we'll start winding down. You talked about coyote drives. What is a coyote drive?)

Oh, that's a deal, it's primarily in sheep country, well, I guess they do it in cattle country now, too, with four-wheelers, but anyway, they would go in the pasture, all the ranchers would get together and line up on one end of the pasture, and then they all start goin'—it's kind of like a fox hunt—they start goin' through the pasture. Everybody has their row, and they just go through, makin' noise and hollerin', tryin' to drive that coyote out into an open area where they could get him. Before it used to be, they would just do it with vehicles and they would run him down with a vehicle and shoot him or whatever, and then it went to fixed wing, the aerial program. Now they run him out to where the fixed wing can see him comin' out, or maybe a helicopter can see him comin' out. They just make a bunch of racket and noise and stuff, tryin' to run him out.

(I had not heard that term before)

Coyote drives

(Yeah, coyote drive. I'm almost to the end. What other hobbies or interests do you have?)

51:54
Well, I'm a wood carver. I've been carvin' wood. As you've seen, my stuff is surprisingly—how did somebody say? "Surprisingly non-Southwestern." [laughs]

([laughs] Is that a compliment?)

You know with? I've decided a long time ago to take everything as a compliment.

([chuckles])

I figure if somebody cusses you out, you ought to just thank 'em, 'cause they took the time to express something. You were the object [chuckles] of their attention for a second. "That's nice, thank you." Yeah, I take it as a compliment. My stuff is totally different. I don't know how to describe it. Now I've gotten into that flint knapping with those guys up there in Portales. I really enjoy that. It's like, I didn't even know why I'm doing it. I've got all these areas now. Maybe I'm getting ready for the big tilt. [chuckles]

([laughs])

Maybe I'll open up my own Wal-Mart, you know [chuckles] and sell survival tools for the big tilt. I don't know what's goin' on.

([laughs])

Anyway, I'm enjoyin' that. [chuckles] And then I like walking, I like takin' walks, my wife and I and the dog, just walkin'. I like piece and quiet. I like to be able to go out in my yard and take a leak when I want to. I remember [chuckles] an old man told me one time, he said, "Times are really changing," he said. "Dammit," he said, "you used to go and eat in the house and you'd go outside and take a crap. By golly, now you go outside to eat and you come in the house and crap. I don't know what's happenin'," he says. That's what's happening. You watch everything change and you're just glad to be around to see it, see it change, you know. It's like this thing in Portales when that news came out that I lost the funding in this county and my wife and I were disgusted and I didn't know whether I should do that or not. She had a good idea. She told me, she said, "Why don't you just look at it as an adventure?" I said, "That's a good idea." So I'm on an adventure over there. I'm in exile over there. [chuckles]

([chuckles] An exile adventure.)

I'm gonna tell people I'm in dry dock over at Port Alice. [laughs] I've enjoyed my career and when I retired as a state guy, I told 'em, I said, "I really don't want to quit. I feel like I've got a little more to offer, but pshht, I'm gettin' tired of drivin'." I'd like to take on some other challenges, too, if I could, if I could be of assistance and help out. I'd like to. I've always enjoyed a good challenge. [laughs]

(I am to the end of my questions. Do you have anything else you'd like to add?)

Well, I don't know. [pause] I don't know if this'll make it into that deal that John is doin'. I think that's a great idea. When I saw it on the—when you guys put that out, that email, I thought,

"Hey, this is a great, great thing to do. I think it'd be somethin' really good." I just hope I had somethin' to offer. [chuckles] I figure, hell, I've been around long enough, I probably know somethin'. I don't know what it is. [chuckles]

([chuckles])

Kind of like Bob Dylan. I like Bob Dylan. I must have made a bad turn, he says. [chuckles]

([chuckles])

No, I've done all right. I've done good. I've got a good family. I've got a real good friend in my wife. She supports me a lot. I've got a great son. I'm doin' good. I've always had good dogs, I've got a one-eyed cat. What more do you want?

(Not much. Thank you very much, Pat)

Not a problem.

55:59 End file 4. End.